

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 COME-00 L-03 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 MC-02 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 /058 W

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O P 031136Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6025

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL THE HAGUE 2792

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, NL, BE

SUBJECT: F-104 REPLACEMENT: MEETING WITH MOD VREDELING

REF: STATE 128137 AND ASST. SECRETARY SHRONTZ/TANGUY TELECON

JUNE 2

1. INFORMATION PROVIDED IN REFERENCED COMMUNICATIONS
WAS MOST TIMELY AND USEFUL FOR CHARGE'S MEETING THIS
MORNING (JUNE 3) WITH MOD VREDELING. AS A RESULT,
VREDELING HAD NO PROBLEM WITH THE US-BELGIAN DECISION
TO SAY NOTHING PUBLICLY ABOUT VANDEN BOEYNANTS' MEET-
ING WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER OR THE PASSAGE OF THE
MAY 31 DEADLINE FOR SIGNING OF PRELIMINARY CONTRACT
AND MOU. HOWEVER, VREDELING SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO
SEND A LETTER IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO TO THE
DEFENSE COMMITTEE OF THE SECOND CHAMBER TO EXPLAIN IN
GENERAL TERMS THAT THE GOB'S FAILURE TO MEET THE
MAY 31 DEADLINE WOULD NOT RPT NOT INVALIDATE THE US
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OFFER OR THE GON'S ACCEPTANCE OF IT.

2. VREDELING SAID THAT SUBJECT TO CONCURRENCE OF
FONMIN VAN DER STOEL LETTER WOULD BE ALONG THE FOLLOW-

ING LINES: "ACCORDING TO MY (I.E. VREDELING'S) INFORMATION NO FORMAL EXTENSION OF THE MAY 31 DEADLINE APPEARS NECESSARY SINCE OTHER CONSORTIUM MEMBERS HAVE SIGNED THE PRELIMINARY CONTRACT AND MOU. AND SINCE A GOB DECISION CAN BE EXPECTED SHORTLY. IN OTHER WORDS A DE FACTO EXTENSION OF THE DEALINE HAS OCCURRED WHICH, HOWEVER, WILL HAVE NO CONSEQUENCES FOR THE TERMS OF THE US F-16 OFFER".

3. CHARGE SAID HIS PERSONAL REACTION TO THIS LANGUAGE WAS FAVORABLE SINCE IT WOULD APPEAR TO MEET VREDELING'S POLITICAL NEEDS WITHOUT DOING INJUSTICE TO THE BELGIAN DESIRE TO PLAY IT COOL PUBLICLY UNTIL THE GOB HAD MADE ITS DECISION. CHARGE TOLD VREDELING HOWEVER THAT HE WOULD CABLE TEXT OF LETTER TO WASHINGTON FOR ANY COMMENTS IT MIGHT HAVE AS SOON AS VREDELING HAD COORDINATED IT WITH VAN DER STOEL.

4. IN RESPONSE TO CHARGE'S QUESTION, VREDELING SAID THAT ON THE ADVICE OF BOTH PRIMIN DEN UYL AND LABOR PARTY PARLIAMENTARY LEADER VAN THIJN, VREDELING WOULD NOT RPT NOT REQUEST CHANGE IN DATE OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON F-16 SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 5. ACCORDING TO VREDELING, VAN THIJN HAS SIGNIFICANTLY SOFTENED IN HIS OPPOSITION TO THE F-16 AND PRIMIN'S JUDGMENT WAS THAT THERE WAS NOW A FAVORABLE POLITICAL MOMENTUM FOR THE F-16 IN THE NETHERLANDS WHICH MIGHT BE DISSIPATED BY POSTPONEXFT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE. THUS, VREDELING PREFERRED NOT TO DELAY UNTIL GOB DECISION. WITHOUT BEING EXPLICIT VREDELING GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT DEBATE WOULD NOT CAUSE GON MAJOR PROBLEMS AS ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED.

5. VREDELING PRESUMABLY WILL BE HEARING FROM PRIMIN TINDEMANS ABOUT VANDEN BOEYNANTS' WASHINGTON VISIT SINCE THEY WILL BE LUNCHING TOGETHER TODAY (JUNE 3) AT THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR'S IN THE HAGUE.

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VREDELING AGREED WITH THE SUGGESTION THAT HE USE THE OCCASION TO MENTION HIS LETTER TO THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE TO TINDEMANS BEFORE IT IS SENT AND MADE PUBLIC.

TANGUY

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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